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**Contact: K. Danielle Edwards  
(615) 741-9192 (Office)  
(615) 417-9097 (Cell)**

**Shelby County Mayor Honors DCS Regional Administrator  
Shelby County regional administrator receives esteemed Ruby R. Wharton Award**

The Tennessee Department of Children's Services is pleased to announce that one of its key voices in regional leadership has received a distinguished honor. Antionette Holman, the department's Shelby County regional administrator, received the inaugural Ruby R. Wharton Award earlier this month from the office of Shelby County Mayor A.C. Wharton, Jr. The award recognizes local women who have championed their communities in service and leadership. A panel of five judges selected 10 women to receive the award, who were nominated by various community leaders.

Award recipients demonstrated a commitment to service to the community at large, excellence in a paid or unpaid capacity and involvement in activities to build and/or improve Shelby County. Recipients also had to reflect an impact or change in the community attributable to the nominee's activities, as well as serving as an inspirational role model for youth and the underprivileged in Shelby County.

"I was truly honored to receive such a distinguished award from such a pillar in our society – Mayor A.C. Wharton," Holman said. "The award was named after the first lady of the county, Ruby R. Wharton, who is committed to serving our community. To be recognized at this level was exhilarating."

Holman is one of 12 DCS regional administrators across the state. In serving Shelby County in this capacity, she is responsible for a variety of functions, including managing program operations, fiscal matters and staff in each of the regional offices and any satellite offices the region might have.

"I have immense pride that the passionate work in which Ms. Holman engages is being recognized," said DCS Commissioner Viola P. Miller. "In serving children and families in Tennessee, regional administrators like Antionette Holman are instrumental in providing leadership and service."

The Tennessee Department of Children's Services was established in 1996 to provide the best possible care for children and youth who are in state custody, or at significant risk of entering custody, and their families. Services provided by DCS include child protective services, foster care, adoption, programs for delinquent youth, probation/aftercare, and treatment and rehabilitation programs for identified youth.

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